

REMARKS

Claims 1-39, as amended, remain herein. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 14 and 27 may be found, for example, in the Specification at p. 23, lines 14-29.

1. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 24, 27-31, 33, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Koishi U.S. Patent 6,683,755. Koishi discloses a negative pressure type head slider with regions of differing heights, relative to a disk. Koishi discloses a groove 82 on an air flow incoming end.

But Koishi fails to disclose a groove being set back from the air flow incoming end, such that it does not contact an edge of the air flow incoming end, as recited in Applicants' amended claims 1, 14 and 27. Rather, the grooves 82 in Koishi are adjacent to the air flow incoming end.

Regarding claims 5, 18 and 31, Koishi fails to disclose that a groove is located at least 20 um from the air flow incoming end. Applicants' suggest that the ordinary meaning of the term "at least 20 um from the air flow incoming end" is that the groove is no closer to the air flow incoming end than 20 um. Koishi fails to disclose such a groove. Rather, the groove 82 of Koishi is contacting the air flow incoming end. A person of reasonable skill would not describe a groove that is contacting an end as "at least 20 um from" the end, even if the groove was wider than 20um.

Since Koishi fails to disclose every element of claims 1, 5, 14, 18, 27 and 31, Koishi is an inadequate basis for rejecting claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11, 14-18, 20, 21, 24, 27-31, 33, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Further, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Koishi to render obvious Applicants' claims. Nothing in Koishi provides any motivation

for moving a groove back from the air flow incoming end. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

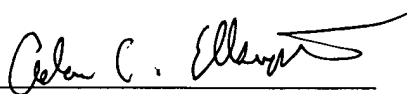
2. Claims 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 35, 36 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Koishi and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). For the reasons stated above, Koishi fails to disclose every element of independent claims 1, 14 and 27, from which claims 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 35, 36 and 38-39 depend. AAPA fails to disclose what Koishi lacks. Since Koishi and AAPA fail to disclose every element of claims 1, 14 and 27, from which claims 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 35, 36 and 38-39 depend, Koishi and AAPA are inadequate grounds for rejecting claims 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 35, 36 and 38-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all claims 1-39 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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